

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application is requested. Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Wahl, et al. (5,970,616) with reference made to Figure 7. The examiner has stated that it appears that the comb (36) has a spring portion on the end opposite from the teeth, which is used for attaching the assembly to the clipper. It is further stated that if this were not the configuration, that it would have been obvious to make the rear portion elastic to facilitate the attachment thereof.

In the instant invention in an embodiment for the comb element there is a spring clip 35. However, the claim 20 also comprises a groove notch 34 formed in the comb teeth 33 as best viewed in Figures 24, 24A and 27. In the embodiment claimed in claim 20 this groove notch engages the front edge of a plurality of upper teeth 16 of a cutting head to retain the comb element on the cutting head.

The Wahl, et al., patent does not illustrate in the Figures nor describe in the specification the use of a groove notch in the comb teeth. The Figure 7 view in the Wahl, et al., art of the comb 36 illustrates no groove notch for engagement of teeth elements 20 or 22. There is no illustrated means for retention of the comb 36 nor is there any descriptor in the specification. This patent as well as the other art such as Andis does not disclose nor anticipate the use of a groove notch 34 as illustrated in the instant application, Figures 24, 24A and 27, for retention of the comb to a cutting head. For all of these reasons it is believed the instant invention distinguished over the prior art.

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wahl, et al. The examiner has stated that coating of combs is old in the art and would be obvious to use with Wahl to allow the comb to be more effective. Claim 21 is now dependent on what is believed to be an allowable base claim and should be allowed.

Claim 22 has been objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten. It is believed that the base claim is now allowable and 22 should be allowed.

It is believed with the clarifying remarks that the uniqueness of the instant invention is not disclosed in the cited art. Applicant believes that the unique comb structure although being simple in its implementation was not obvious to those involved in the art of comb design.

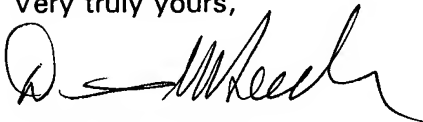
Accordingly it is believed that the rejections under 35 USC Section 102(b) and 103(a) have been overcome by the remarks, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the cause for rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of claims 20 through 26 is earnestly solicited.

No additional fee for claims is seen to be required.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis W. Beech', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DENNIS W. BEECH
Reg. No.: 35,443

DWB/ab